(a) whether it is a fact that the Prime Minister had announced a National Policy and Action Plan in October, 2005 for total computerisation of Courts all over the country to help provide speedy, qualitative and cost-effective justice;

(b) if so, the salient features of the plan; and

(c) to what extent it has been implemented in various Courts in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI K. VENKATAPATHY): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) A scheme for computerisation of District and Subordinate Courts, prepared in accordance with the National Policy and Action Plan has been approved by the Government on 8th February, 2007. The salient features of the Action Plan cover application and implementation of Information and Communication Technology in the Judicial System in a phased manner involving computerisation of all district and subordinate courts in the country and upgradation of facilities of the superior courts and electronic networking of the lowest court with the highest court. Government has already computerized the city courts in the four metropolitan cities and State capitals or in cities where the principal seat of the High Court is located.

Honorarium paid to Government Counsels

58. SHRI DHARAM PAL SABHARWAL: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) the rate of Government honorarium being given to Government Counsels in Supreme Court, High Courts and District Courts;

(b) when was the last rate of honorarium/fees to Government Counsel was revised;

(c) whether Government are planning to hike and revise the rate of honorarium to Government Counsels;

(d) if so, by when; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI H.R. BHARDWAJ): (a) Two Statements indicating the fee payable to counsel of different Courts are attached as Statement-I and Statement-II (*See* below)

(b) The rates of fee to Government Counsel of Supreme Court of India, different High Courts and District Courts were revised with effect from 01-10-1999. The rates of fee of Government Counsel of Bombay High Court and Calcutta High Court were revised with effect from 14-05-2001.

(c) The Government has moved a proposal to revise the fee structure of Counsel of different High Courts. There is no proposal to revise the rates of fee of Counsel of Supreme Court, Bombay High Court, Calcutta High Court and District Courts.

(d) The proposal for revision of fee structure of Counsel of High Courts has been sent to the Ministry of Finance, Department of Expenditure.

(e) The present rates of fee of Counsel of Supreme Court, Bombay High Court, Calcutta High Court and District Courts are reasonable.

Statement-I

Fee payable to Counsel of Supreme Court of India, High Courts and District Courts

A. Fee payable to Group 'A' Counsel of Supreme Court for main items of work:—

Item of work	Fee payable
All regular appeals and defended writ petitions (for final hearings)	Rs. 4500/- per case per day
All defended admission matters (SLP/TP and writ petitions and other miscellaneous matters for admission)	Rs. 3000/- per day per case
Settling of pleadings	Rs. 1800/- per case
Appearance in miscellaneous Applications	Rs. 1500/- per case
Conference	Rs. 300/- per conference

B. Fee payable to Group B, C and D Counsel of Supreme Court for main items of work:—

Item of work	Fee payable
All regular appeals and defended writ petitions (for final hearing)	Rs. 3000/- per case per day
All defended admission matters (SLP/TP and writ petitions and other miscellaneous matters for admission)	Rs. 1500/- per day per case
Drafting SLP/Counter Affidavits/Rejoinder, etc.	Rs. 1050/- per case
Drafting written submissions	Rs. 1100/- per case
Drafting or appearance in misc. applications (including mentioning of the case/caveat/ clearance/obtaining the number and taking date for hearing)	Rs. 900/- per case

C. Fee payable to Senior Panel of High Courts (other than the High Court of Bombay and High Court of Calcutta) for main items of work:—

Item of work	Fee payable
Suites, writ petitions and appeals	Rs. 3000/- per case per effective hearing Rs. 500/- for non-effective hearing
Applications for leave to appeal to the Supreme Court other than in Writ Petitions	Rs. 1100/- per case
Settling pleadings	Rs. 900/- per case
Miscellaneous applications	Rs. 900/- per case
Conference	Rs. 300/- per conference

D. Fee payale to Assistant Solicitor General of India, Central Government Counsel of High Courts (other than the High Court of Bombay and High Court of Calcutta) for main items of work:—

Item of work	Fee payable
Civil or Criminal Writ Petition	Rs. 2250/- per case
Petitions under Article 132 or 133 of the Constitution	Rs. 900/- per case per day subject to a maximum of Rs. 1800/-

Item of work	Fee payable
Original suits and Civil Appeals from Decrees in original suits	*Ad valoram* fee
Civil or Criminal Revisions	Rs. 1050/- per case
Civil or Miscellaneous Applications or Petitions	Rs. 750/- per case
Reference to the High Court under Sales Tax Act and Banking Company Petitions	Rs. 1050/- per case or the fixed by the Court, whichever is higher
Drafting Pleadings	Rs. 750/- per pleading

E. Fee payable to Standing Government Counsel/Additonal Standing Government Counsel of District and Subordinate Courts:—

Item of work	Fee payable
Suits, Motor Vehicle Act claim cases, House Rent cases, cases under the Public Premises (Eviction of Unauthorized Occupants) Act, Arbitration Act, Consumer Protection Act, etc.	(i) Rs. 600/- per day for appearance for effecting hearing (ii) Rs. 200 per day for non-effective hearing
Drafting	Rs. 500/- per pleading
Conference	Rs. 300/- per conference

Statement-II

Fee payale to Counsel of Bombay High Court and Calcutta High Court for main items of work

Item of work	Special Counsel	Sr. Counsel Group-I	Sr. Counsel Group-II	Jr. Counsel
1	2	3	4	5
Suits, Appeals, Writ/Revision Petitions including Special Civil Application in the High Court (per day per effective hearing)	Rs. 3000/-	Rs. 2000/-	Rs. 1250/-	Rs. 650/-
Applications including interim motions, Notices, Appeals, Leave Applications,	Rs. 1100/-	Rs. 900/-	Rs. 700/-	Rs. 450/-

1	2	3	4	5
Arbitration, Company matters, Criminal Revision and other Land Acquisition References (Per day per effective hearing)				
Drafting of settling pleadings and affidavits (per pleading)	Rs. 900/-	Rs. 600/-	Rs. 500/-	Rs. 350/-
Appearance before Arbitrators and Tribunals and Courts other than the High Court (per day per effective hearing)	Rs. 2500/-	Rs. 2000/-	Rs. 1250/-	Rs. 800/-
Conference/Consultation (per consultation)	Rs. 300/-	Rs. 250/-	Rs. 200/-	Rs. 150/-

Scheme for judicial reforms

59. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have formulated any scheme for judicial reforms for speedy disposal of cases and to make judiciary more accountable and transparent;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government propose to bring in a Constitution Amendment Bill in this regard;

(d) if so, by when the Bill is likely to be introduced in Parliament; and

(e) whether Government are also contemplating to set up National Judicial Pay Commission and if so, by when?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI K. VENKATAPATHY): (a) to (d) Government has approved a scheme for computerisation of district and subordinate courts in the country with a view to facilitating speedy disposal of cases and to enhance transparency in the Justice delivery system. The scheme envisages application of Information and Communication Technology to all the district and subordinate courts and upgradation of facilities of the superior courts. The first phase of the scheme is to be implemented at a cost of Rs. 442 crores.